

CCM 2014 Testimony

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

March 14, 2014

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

S.B. 21, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning General Government"

CCM opposes Section 1 of the bill, and urges the Committee to delete it.

CCM greatly appreciates that the Governor has maintained level funding of the Pequot-Mohegan grant for FY 15. His commitment will help ensure that towns and cities can stay afloat during very tough economic times.

CCM, however, does not understand why SB 21 removes from state statute the dollar amount allocated for the Pequot-Mohegan grant. Although the grant has not been allocated at that amount since FY 02, it is an important goal and commitment for the State to remember.

The Pequot-Mohegan grant provides an important funding source for towns and cities and helps relieve the burden of the property tax. It is a flexible source of revenue, which helps fund a variety of local government services. This is particularly critical given the chronic underfunding of the PILOT programs and the elimination of funding for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA).

CCM urges the Committee to delete Section 1 of SB 21.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas (rthomas@ccm-ct.org) or George Rafael (grafael@ccm-ct.org) of CCM at (203) 498-3000.